

Application No.: 09/543,962

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 19 and 28 have been amended. The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors.

Claims 1-37 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Serbinis et al. (6,314,425). Regarding independent Claim 19, the Examiner stated that Serbinis teaches a method of acquiring information pertaining to a document including information (citing the Abstract), comprising associating a set of document service requests with the document, wherein a document service comprises a process for using a portion of the information (citing col. 10, lines 34-50); selecting a document service request from the set (citing col. 11, lines 46-55); initiating and managing communication with a service provider to satisfy the selected document service (citing Fig. 2, the scheduled date/time for delivery and Fig. 8). The Examiner stated that Serbinis does not explicitly teach "integrating any results from the selected document service into the document", but that Serbinis does disclose the "Originator may 'package' a document prior to uploading to the DMS system . . . such 'packing' may be automatically . . . storage of the document" citing col. 11, line 66 to col. 12, line 8. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 1, as presently amended, is directed to a system for acquiring information pertaining to a document including information, comprising: a meta-document including the document and a set of document service requests associated with the document, wherein a document service comprises a process for using a portion of the information as a starting point to obtain other information from a service provider pertaining to the information; and a scheduler for autonomously selecting a document service request from the set, initiating and managing communication with a service provider to satisfy the selected document service and integrating any results from the selected document service into the document.

Claim 19, as presently amended, is directed to a method for acquiring information pertaining to a document including information, comprising: associating a set of document service requests with the document, wherein a document service comprises a process for using a portion of the information as a starting point to obtain other information from a service provider pertaining to the information; and autonomously activating and managing the document service requests without user invention, comprising: selecting a document service request from the set;

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initiating and managing communication with a service provider to satisfy the selected document service; and integrating any results from the selected document service into the document.

Claim 28, as presently amended, is directed to a meta-document, comprising: a document including content information; a set of document service requests associated with the document, wherein a document service comprises a process for using a portion of the content information as a starting point to obtain other information from a service provider pertaining to the information; and wherein, responsive to an autonomous scheduler, a document service request is selected from the set and communication with a service provider to satisfy the selected document service is initiated and managed; and wherein, responsive to the autonomous scheduler, any results from the selected document service are integrated into the document.

Nothing in Serbinis et al. teaches or suggests Applicants' invention as claimed in Claims 1, 19 or 28. Serbinis et al. describes a document management system and method wherein access to the system may be controlled through the use of access tokens. Serbinis et al.'s system and method is a user-centric system and method where the originator (and other authorized users of the document) controls actions associated with the document. The originator of the document places controls on his/her document and grants access to authorized users (through access tokens) so that only authorized users may perform certain actions on the documents. Authorized users may collaboratively store, retrieve, modify and return documents to storage (col. 2, lines 57-59).

Nothing in Serbinis et al. teaches or suggests a system which operates autonomously (i.e., without user intervention). Nothing in Serbinis et al. teaches or suggests a system including, in part, "a meta-document including the document and a set of document service requests associated with the document, wherein a document service comprises a process for using a portion of the information as a starting point to obtain other information from a service provider pertaining to the information". Nothing in Serbinis et al. teaches or suggests a system including, in part, "a scheduler for autonomously selecting a document service request from the set, initiating and managing communication with a service provider to satisfy the selected document service and integrating any results from the selected document service into the document."

Claims 1, 19 or 28 are believed to be allowable over the cited references. Claims 2-18, 20-27 and 29-37 depend from Claims 1, 19 and 28, respectively, and are also believed to be

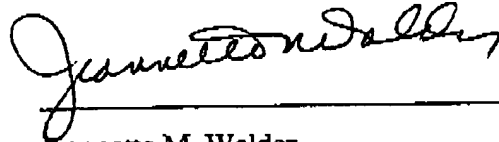
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allowable over the cited references.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment; however, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

Reconsideration of this application and allowance thereof are earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner considers a personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned Attorney for Applicants, Jeannette Walder.

Respectfully submitted,



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Xerox Corporation
El Segundo, California
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